



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

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**ODESSA MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON  
IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in Midland, Texas, 32-year-old Nathan Leon Stephens was sentenced to 105 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Stephens pled guilty to the charge on October 29, 2003. In his plea, he admitted that during a home burglary on August 7, 2003, he stole a .22 caliber R92 Ultra Revolver among other items. Ector County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephens that same day and discovered the firearm in his vehicle. Stevens has prior state felony convictions in Ector County for Burglary of a Habitation and Burglary of a Vehicle plus, a 1990 Federal conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

This case was investigated by the Ector County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Roomberg.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's new gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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